

TO: TALK w/ADE Members

FROM: Jeannette Zemeida
Arizona Department of Education
Exceptional Student Services

DATE: September 20, 2002

SUBJECT: Minutes from Meeting on August 26, 2002

TALK w/ADE MEETING MINUTES

❖ **Welcome/Attendance**

- Steve Mishlove--Arizona Department of Education/Exceptional Student Services (ADE/ESS), Lynn Busenbark – ADE/ESS, Jeannette Zemeida--ADE/ESS, Laura Bistrow, Paradise Valley Unified School District, Gail Bornfield, Amphitheater Unified School District, Diane Bruening, Chandler Unified School District; Suellen Capron, Snowflake Unified School District; Karen Davis PPEP TEC Charter High School; Catherine Hitchings, Higley Unified School District; Lorrane McPherson, Tucson Unified School District; Craig Niece, Prescott Unified School District; Sue Tillis – Sunnyside Unified School District; Robert Wolf, Parker Unified School District; Joe Zello – Mesa Public Schools, also attending: Kathryn Huizenga, ADE/ESS and Cyndi, ADE/ESS

❖ **ADE Update**

- Out of Level Testing
 - ADE/ESS had a meeting on Sept. 10 to discuss: “No Child Left Behind” requirements
 - Lorrane McPherson, Sue Tillis and Joe Zello volunteered to provide input to ADE regarding out-of-level testing.
- OSEP Leadership Conference
 - OSEP’s proposed direction of monitoring (i.e. – focused monitoring) of states was shown as a PowerPoint presentation at the OSEP Leadership Conference. Lynn provided copies of the presentation.
- RFP for Special Education Cost Study has been sent out.
 - Before it was sent out it was revised. The scope was enlarged to include Group A and Group B.
 - Will be looking at both total costs and excess costs for both Group A and Group B.
 - Random sampling includes both urban and rural schools; also includes small and large districts.
 - Charter schools were added.
 - Timelines were included.
 - There was discussion concerning the current weighting of TBI.
 - ESS has recommended to legislature that Group A and Group B weights be blended for A, SMR, MD and OI.
- Behavioral Health Services/Residential Placement ISA
 - Less than 100 children placed in private residential
 - Joint letter from ADE to BHS – children will remain where they are

- Placement procedure will change
- Protocols are being established for districts and charters to use
- Protocols will require greater involvement of RBHAs in evaluation and IEP team meetings
- There is also a proposal from BHS to provide ADE/ESS with funds (a little over \$600,000 a year) to provide services for non-Title 19 eligible students
- Child Find Agreement
 - DES had not signed it as of the August meeting; requested the agreement be changed to a 3-year agreement as opposed to a 5-year agreement
- Calendar for rest of year for Talk with ADE meetings: Sept. 23, Oct. 21, Nov. 18, Jan. 13, Feb. 10, Mar. 17, Apr. 21, May 12 and June 23. All meetings will be held at Paradise Valley School District.
- Agency-wide Summer Institute
 - Working with Sopris West
 - Focus will be on early literacy as well as literacy for adolescents
 - June 8-11, 2003, Loews Ventana Canyon Resort, Tucson
 - Cost will be \$300
 - Aimed at instructional staff
- Thank you to Paradise Valley USD and Tucson USD for sending someone to attend LTRS training.

❖ OPEN DISCUSSION

- Staff Shortages
 - Steve suggested contacting Dale Brown, Mountain Plains Regional Resource Center, Arizona Center for Professions in Education when shortages occur for possible help in filling vacancies
 - Arizona Educational Employment Board website: <http://www.arizonaeducationjobs.com/>
 - ADE training for emergency certified teachers suggested – each training could focus on different disability
 - Reduced caseloads wouldn't work since more teachers would then have to be hired
 - Training planning committee formed. The following individuals volunteered to serve on committee: Lorrane McPherson, Suellen Capron, Pam Loper and Gail Bornfield.
- Statewide uniformity in forms
 - Mesa Public Schools working on uniformity within its district. Possibility of other districts using Mesa's system was discussed.
- AIMS-A Reporting
 - Web-based system this coming school year
 - Small school districts can still enter scores through ADE system
 - Large school districts can enter scores through Tucson USD system
 - Need training on giving assessment and entering scores on computer.
 - AIMS scores report to parents is confusing
 - Tucson USD is working to simplify form for its parents
- Annual Special Education Data Collection
 - Discussion among group members regarding how their districts collected information.
 - Steve informed group that once the data was collected from the districts this school year, it is the intent of ESS to reconvene the annual Data Focus Group to solicit feedback
- Independent Educational Evaluations (IEE)
 - Report given by Robert Wolf. Working group is creating a document regarding IEP parameters.
 - Prompted discussion regarding evaluations by out-of-district private providers.

- Early Complaint Resolution
 - Time line to resolve issues before going to formal complaint has been extended to 10 business days
 - 128 out of 160+ complaints that came through ESS last year went through early complaint resolution; 76 were successfully resolved

❖ **NEXT MEETING**

- The next meeting will be held September 23, 2002, Paradise Valley Unified School District, IMC Building, Ivory Room, 15002 N. 32nd St., Phoenix, 9 am –12 noon.